

a position sensor having an output line, and
a tactile actuator having an input line,
a pointing device driver responsive to the output line of the position sensor and wherein
the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,
a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating
system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is
responsive to the general purpose applications, and
a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that
define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding
application.

22. (New) The computer system of claim 21 further including a configuration module
operative to present pointing device configuration controls, wherein the pointing device
configuration controls include controls for accessing the application-specific profile elements.

23. (New) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the configuration module includes
controls allowing the user to select between default and user-specified tactile signals.

24. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein at least some of the application-
specific profile elements are based on a regularly spaced Cartesian grid.

25. (New) The computer system of claim 23 wherein at least some of the application-
specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

26. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein at least some of the application-
specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

27. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein each of the application-specific
profile elements corresponds to one of the applications.

28. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein at least some of the application-
specific profile elements correspond to classes of the applications.

29. (New) The computer system of claim 21 further including an operating system interface element operative to define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the operating system.

30. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein the profile elements are provided with the special-purpose applications.

31. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein the pointing device is a mouse, wherein the housing is a housing of the mouse, and wherein the transducer is mounted inside the housing of the mouse.

32. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein the position sensor is in a mouse and wherein the actuator is in a mouse pad.

33. (New) The computer system of claim 21 wherein the actuator and the position sensor are in a touch pad.

34. (New) A method of operating a computer, comprising:
receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,
accessing a first application-specific profile element,
sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator at the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first application-specific profile element,
generating a first type of tactile signal at the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,
receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a second application,
accessing a second application-specific profile element,
sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator at the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element, and

generating a second type of tactile signal at the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 further including a step of accessing the application-specific profile elements in response to user actuation of configuration controls.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 further including the step of selecting between default and user-specified tactile signals for at least one of the steps of generating.

38. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on a regularly spaced Cartesian grid.

39. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

40. (New) A method of operating a computer, comprising:
means for receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with one of a plurality of applications,
means for accessing a plurality of application-specific profile elements,
means for sending actuation command request signals to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the receipt of signals from a pointing device during interaction with one of the applications, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the means for accessing, and
means for generating a tactile signal in the pointing device responsive to the means for sending an actuation command.

REMARKS

This application should now be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant Kristofer E. Elbing at the number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby